

## A TRIBUTE TO RON LANDPHAIR

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ron Landphair, of Mount Ayr, Iowa for being selected as a member of the Mount Ayr Community School's Hall of Fame.

Ron graduated from Mount Ayr High School in 1968. He received an education degree and returned to his Alma Mater as an industrial arts teacher and assistant wrestling coach in 1980. Known for his building trades and drafting classes, students were tasked with building houses, designing commercial buildings and school additions, and restoring local landmarks.

Mr. Speaker, Ron's dedication to his community embodies the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him, and Iowans like him, in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ron for his achievements and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

## HONORING 1ST LT. DONALD GILLEN (RET.)

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Donald Gillen's honorable service to our nation during World War II.

Born April 14, 1927 in Lincoln, Nebraska, Donald graduated from Lincoln High School and joined the U.S. Army on July 26, 1945. Faithfully serving our country at Camp O'Donnell, Philippines from November 1946 until June 1947, Donald was a part of the 12th Philippine Scout Division before becoming a company commander in the 57th Infantry Regiment in Manila.

Becoming a reservist and member of the National Guard, Donald returned home to Lincoln to graduate with a Bachelors Degree in Journalism from the University of Nebraska. He began a new career with the York News-Times in 1969 and eventually became the publisher of the newspaper, retiring in 1988. Husband to his college sweetheart Marilyn Gillen, father to one, and grandfather to four, Donald is known as a family man—moving to Belleville, Illinois to be closer to his child and grandchildren. Today, he is a guest editorial staffer for the Belleville News-Democrat and writes occasional editorials while supporting his wife's singing in the St. George Episcopal Church choir.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service that Donald dutifully gave to our nation during World War II. We are forever grateful for his service.

## HONORING DAVID GILL FOR RECEIVING THE 2017 AWARD OF HONOR BY WESTERN GROWERS

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleague Representative JIMMY PANETTA, rise today to congratulate and honor Mr. David Gill, who was selected by Western Growers to receive the 2017 Award of Honor for his numerous contributions and esteemed leadership in the agriculture industry.

Mr. Gill, a third generation California grower, began his agricultural career at age six by helping his father and grandfather install pipes on their farm. He continued working on his father's ranch while attending California Polytechnic State University. In 1979, he and his brother, Steve, founded Rio Farms in Ventura City. Then, in 1983, they formed Gills Onions and pioneered the first system to deliver peeled, sliced, and diced onions in the food processing industry. It is now the largest onion processor in the United States.

David has routinely advocated to Congress and the state legislature about the agriculture industry's most significant issues regarding labor, water, and regulatory compliance laws. Gills Onions has also focused on reducing their carbon footprint by developing a system that uses the waste from onion processing to generate electricity and eliminate disposal costs.

As Gill Onions and Rio Farms continued to grow, David played an integral role in some of California's largest fresh vegetable companies, including Taylor Farms California Inc., Earthbound Farms, and Church Bros. LLC. In 1987, David and seven farmers formed Growers Express, one of the nation's largest suppliers of fresh vegetables.

In addition to involvement in various business operations, David values a strong emphasis on community involvement and industry organizations. He has generously donated his time in leadership roles with Western Growers, Hartnell College Ag Steering, Grower Shipper Association of Central California, California Farm Bureau Federation, and Produce Marketing Association.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in honoring and recognizing our friend for receiving Western Growers' 2017 Award of Honor. David Gill has provided innovative technology to the agricultural community and he continues to be a leading voice for change in the agriculture industry. God bless him always.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on October 12, 2017, I was not able to cast my votes during the first vote series due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: YES on Democrat Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2810—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018; YES on Motion on Closing Portions of

the Conference on H.R. 2810—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018; YES on H.R. 2266—Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017, as amended; YES on Motion to Recommit S. 585—Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017; and YES on Passage of S. 585—Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017.

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. VIRGENE WEBB PETERSON

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to celebrate the life and legacy of one of Clinton County's most distinguished citizens, a woman who devoted her life to the service of others, Ms. Virgene Webb Peterson.

Born in 1924, Ms. Peterson spent nearly all 93 of her years working to improve the lives of her Clinton County neighbors by undertaking one of the most noble of all professions: teaching children. From the onset of her career at Kingman Township School in 1943, to her retirement from Denver Place in 1993, thousands of students passed through her classroom, and each one left motivated by Ms. Peterson's love of learning.

To attempt to quantify Ms. Peterson's impact is impossible. She has inspired generations of engaged citizens with her example of kindness, stewardship, and civic participation. In addition to being one of the longest-serving teachers in the State of Ohio, she volunteered her time and talents to countless organizations including the Leadership Clinton Youth Collaborative, Chester Friends Meeting, the Clinton County Retired Teachers Association, the Ohio Retired Teachers Association, the Mt. Pleasant Grange, Young Mother's Club, Progress Club, and Turning the Corner.

Like a pebble dropped in a pond, the ripples created by Ms. Peterson's life and work are far-reaching. Her legacy will live on in the memories of those who knew her and loved her: her son, Jay, and daughter, Bunny, and their spouses, Cindy and Ed; her grandchildren, Adam, Maggie, Heath, Amanda, and Curt; her great-grandchildren, Owen, Ava, and Aubrie; and the rest of her extended family.

Clinton County is undeniably a better place because of Ms. Virgene Webb Peterson, and I am honored to celebrate her life and legacy.

## A TRIBUTE TO JUDY AND GARY NISSEN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Judy and Gary Nissen of Afton, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Judy and Gary's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our

Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Judy and Gary on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

---

CELEBRATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLAH

---

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, October 22nd marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i Faith. There are more than five million Baha'is around the world, including in my district in South Florida. Over the weekend, they came together to celebrate the bicentenary of Baha'u'llah's birth by honoring his life and his teachings.

Like many religious leaders, Baha'u'llah taught of the unity of mankind and the need for us to work to build better communities and a better world. Baha'is believe that Baha'u'llah was God's most recent messenger and that all religions should live in harmony. This religious tolerance is an important message in a world where we too often see religious oppression.

In fact, Baha'u'llah was born in Tehran but was imprisoned and exiled for his teachings. Today, Baha'is in Iran are still openly persecuted for their faith. Baha'i youth are often deprived of access to higher education and public jobs, Baha'i-owned businesses are frequently attacked, and Baha'i cemeteries are desecrated and disrespected. Baha'is are vilified in state sponsored media and their leaders are arbitrarily arrested and cruelly held in Iran's notorious prisons.

That is why I was proud to introduce H. Res. 274 with a bipartisan group of colleagues to condemn Iran's human rights violations, particularly its persecution of its Baha'i minority, and urge sanctions against officials who have carried out these abuses. This resolution passed unanimously through the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, of which I am Ranking Member, and I look forward to moving it through the full Committee and to the House Floor.

The bicentenary, though, is about celebration and shared optimism for the future. I'm pleased to join with my colleagues in congratulating Baha'is around the world, and in Florida in particular, as they celebrate this festive and momentous occasion.

HONORING THE CATALOGUE FOR PHILANTHROPY: GREATER WASHINGTON

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington for its contributions to the District of Columbia and the region on the occasion of its 15th anniversary.

The Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington was founded in 2003 by Barbara Harman, who recognized the need to identify and highlight the best community-based nonprofits in the region.

It has built the foundation of its success based on a rigorous vetting process that is implemented by local experts to ensure excellence in the programming, finances and impact of selected nonprofits. In addition, the organization raises the visibility and resources of these nonprofits, connects them with philanthropic dollars that fuel their growth and works to create a movement for social good in the D.C. region.

The organization also has a tradition of advocating for and supporting nonprofits through capacity-building programs designed to strengthen them in the face of rapid change.

Since it began, the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington has demonstrated its impact by raising over \$40 million for charities in its network, including 200 organizations that operate in the District.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the leaders of the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington and their commitment to create a stronger, more resilient, more hopeful community that is a better place to live for everyone.

---

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, on October 11, 2017, I was unable to cast my votes during the second series due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: YES on H.R. 452—To designate the facility of the United States Post Office located at 324 West Saint Louis Street in Pacific, Missouri, as the "Specialist Jeffrey L. White, Jr. Post Office" (Rep. LUETKEMEYER—Oversight and Government Reform); and YES on H.R. 3243—FITARA Enhancement Act of 2017 (Rep. CONNOLLY—Oversight and Government Reform).

---

A TRIBUTE TO LARRY WOHLERS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Larry

Wohlens of Council Bluffs, Iowa on his retirement after 34 years of service with the Council Bluffs Fire Department.

Larry began his public service career in the Council Bluffs Public Works Department before he joined the local fire department. He was hired in September of 1983 as a firefighter. Larry then began moving through the ranks as a captain, assistant chief, and was ultimately promoted to Fire Marshall in 2008. Council Bluffs Fire Chief Justin James said, "It's going to be a huge loss for the department. Larry has done a great job."

Mr. Speaker, Larry has made a difference in his community by helping and serving others. It is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for his accomplishments and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

---

HONORING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 120th anniversary of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Newport News, Virginia.

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church had humble beginnings. Originally known as Warwick Parish, and then as St. Paul's Church, its mission was started in 1897 with the intention of providing a religious community for African-American Episcopalians. The church was started with neither a full-time pastor nor an official building, so the congregation ran their early services out of the upper floor of the Columba Opera House in Newport News. Reverend Joseph F. Mitchell became the first vicar for St. Paul's Mission in the fall of 1897 and spent the next six years of his ministry trying to grow the parish and raise enough funds to afford to build a chapel for the congregation.

Under the leadership of Reverend Adolphus A. Birch, the church's sixth rector, the name of the mission was officially changed to St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in 1924. Reverend Birch's successor, Reverend J.J. Posey, oversaw the church's move into their official building on Marshall Avenue at Twenty-Sixth Street in Newport News. The congregation still meets at this location in a new church building that was constructed in 1962 under the leadership of Reverend Lloyd M. Alexander.

Today, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church is home to a thriving parish life with a variety of ministries and programs aimed at bettering the congregation as well as the Newport News community. The Feeding Program was established in 1988 and offers hot meals to hungry adults and children every month. The Twelve Steps Program meets five days every week to extend counseling, support, and mentorship for men and women in the area who are struggling with substance abuse. The church also sponsors a yearly "Back to School Drive" which ensures that local children can begin the school year with a backpack and school supplies that they might struggle to otherwise